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Dated: April 23, 2003

Signature

(Monica L. Thomas)

Docket No.: HO-P01944US1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:

Randy B. Thomas, et al

Application No.: 09/735,161

Group Art Unit: 1714

Filed: December 12, 2000

Examiner: C. Toomer

For: ASPHALT EMULSION SYSTEM
PRODUCING AND SPRAYING PROCESS

REVISED RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 24, 2002

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

APR 28 2003

TC 1700

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed April 7, 2003. Applicants correct the inadvertent error and thank the Examiner for the opportunity to re-submit the amendment to comply with the voluntary practice guidelines. Applicants do not re-submit the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed therewith and respectfully request the Examiner to refer to it from the previous submission.

In response to the Office Action dated December 24, 2002 (Paper No. 8), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for introducing an asphalt into a synthetic fuel process, comprising the steps of:
- introducing into the synthetic fuel process an oil-in-water asphalt emulsion;
 - passing said asphalt emulsion to an atomizer;
 - adding to said atomizer a motivating gas to form an asphalt aerosol spray;
 - agitating a coal fines feed stream; and
 - injecting said aerosol spray into said agitated coal fines.